

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06246 221605Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7887

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 6246

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MARR, MASS, PARM, PGOV, ET, IS, US

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN PLEA TO ISRAELIS

REF: TEL AVIV 5778

1. DURING MEETING AUGUST 22 WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE WEIZMAN ON AN UNRELATED SUBJECT, HE TOLD ME THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, KNOWING I WAS MEETING WITH WEIZMAN, HAD ASKED THAT A "FRANTIC MESSAGE" FROM THE ETHIOPIAN HEAD OF STATE MENGISTU, BE PASSED TO ME FOR FORWARDING TO THE DEPARTMENT. WEIZMANN READ FROM A COPY OF A MESSAGE FROM ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN ADDIS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: MENGISTU HAS REQUESTED THAT ISRAEL ACT URGENTLY TO CONVINCE THE UNITED STATES TO HELP ETHIOPIA. SPECIFICALLY REQUESTS RELEASE OF F5 AIRCRAFT TO ADDIS. ETHIOPIA WILL BE LOST WITHOUT U.S. HELP. END QUOTE.

2. WEIZMAN THEN WENT ON TO EXPRESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S GREAT CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION, ASKING "DO WE (COLLECTIVE) LET ETHIOPIA FOLD UP COMPLETELY?" AND; "HOW DO WE (ISRAEL) FLY TO AFRICA WITHOUT ETHIOPIA?"

3. I EXPLAINED THAT THIS SUBJECT HAD BEEN BROUGHT UP HERE URGENTLY THREE TIMES IN THE RECENT PAST, HAD BEEN
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THOROUGHLY EXPLORED, AND THEN I HAD NO INDICATION THAT THE U.S. WAS PREPARED TO CHANGE ITS POSITION. I SAID WE HAD, HOWEVER, NOW MADE CLEAR THAT WE WOULD NOT BE PROVIDING SOMALIA EVEN WITH ANY DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT WHILE HOSTILITIES CONTINUED. I TOLD WEIZMAN I WOULD AGAIN RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH WASHINGTON, BUT IN LIGHT OF THE RESULTS OF PREVIOUS EFFORTS, I DID NOT ANTICIPATE

ANY DIFFERENT RESPONSE TO MENGISTU'S PLEA.

4. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO THE
SECRETARY.
LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: X3
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Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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